

## DECEMBER 2004

- PAGE 2. Volunteer opportunities.  
PAGE 3. LRT rolls into town.  
PAGE 4. Winter activities heat up.  
PAGE 5. Add pizzazz with the arts.  
PAGE 6. Earth Action Heroes triumph again.  
PAGE 7. Celebrate the holidays at Creekside.  
PAGE 8. For your information.



## BLOOMINGTON RESOURCES NEW ONLINE DIRECTORY TAKES FLIGHT

WANT A QUICK CONNECTION TO resources in Bloomington? Log on to the Bloomington Information Resource Directory (BIRD) where you'll find arts and entertainment, education, real estate, visitor information, sports and fitness, volunteer opportunities and more. Twenty Bloomington organizations, businesses and nonprofit groups created the BIRD to help build community connections and to promote Bloomington's many resources. For more information, visit [www.bloomingtoninfo.com](http://www.bloomingtoninfo.com), e-mail [bird@bloomingtoninfo.com](mailto:bird@bloomingtoninfo.com) or call 952-278-8524.

## LET'S TALK

### CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR BUSY FAMILIES

WORK SCHEDULES, long commutes, sports and other commitments can get in the way

of family mealtime. Yet research continues to validate the importance of sitting down together and sharing a meal. Recent studies have found that teens who eat dinner with their families were less likely to use illegal drugs, alcohol and cigarettes.

Finding out about each other and discussing issues are an important part of the family meal. To get conversations started, Tri-City Partners has created the Let's Talk Jar that includes 100 thought-provoking, serious or fun questions for all family members.

For more information, call Public Health at 952-563-8984. To download questions for the Let's Talk Jars, visit [www.tricitypartners.org](http://www.tricitypartners.org).

## ELECTIONS 2004

### RESIDENTS TURN OUT TO VOTE

THE TURNOUT IN BLOOMINGTON FOR the November 2 General Election was 85.3 percent; Minnesota turnout was 77 percent. Thanks to the more than 50,000 citizens who voted and the more than 400 citizens who served as election judges.



## NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED LOCALLY PRIZED

BLOOMINGTON IS A NATIONAL AWARD WINNER FOR outstanding participation in the 21st Annual National Night Out (NNO) crime, drug and violence prevention program held last August. With more than 313 registered neighborhood parties, our city was recognized as the eighth best in the nation among cities with populations from 50,000 to 99,999. *See right.* In addition, 14,000 pounds of food and more than \$400 were collected for Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People.

Congratulations to all participating neighborhoods for helping make this event a success.

Bloomington's NNO program has received five consecutive national awards thanks in part to the efforts of program coordinator and Crime Prevention Specialist Niki Pierson. For her dedicated work on NNO and other crime prevention programs, Pierson recently received top honors. *See page 2.*

### POPULATION 50,000 - 99,999

1. Bloomington, IL
2. Brooklyn Park, MN
3. The Woodlands, TX
4. Sugar Land, TX
5. Coon Rapids, MN
6. Kent, WA
7. Frisco, TX
8. **Bloomington, MN**
9. Richardson, TX
10. Lodi, CA

## A SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENT BLOOMINGTON AWARDED TOP RATINGS FROM S & P's, MOODY'S AND FITCH

By Mayor Gene Winstead

BLOOMINGTON HAS JOINED AN ELITE FEW cities nationwide with three triple-A bond ratings. In October, Fitch Ratings became the third credit rating agency to assign a triple-A to the City based on its healthy economic growth, strong financial management and manageable debt burden.

The City also maintained its Aaa from Moody's and AAA from Standard & Poor's, the highest bond ratings awarded by those agencies.

**Bloomington is one of only 20 cities out of more than 87,000 local governments in the U.S. that have achieved triple-A ratings from all three agencies.** Our city is currently the only city in Minnesota to hold all three highest ratings. That puts us in a pretty unique class. In addition, Hennepin County is the only county in Minnesota and one of only 20 counties nationwide to have the top triple-A bond rating from all three credit rating agencies.

According to the agencies, Bloomington's triple-A status reflects the City's:

- Conservative fiscal management.
- Diverse economic base rooted in substantial hospitality, manufacturing, service and trade industries.
- Central location in the growing Twin Cities area.
- Low unemployment rates that fall below state and national averages.
- Continued success of the Mall of America tax increment district.
- Significant flexibility in maintaining its strong financial position.



- Manageable debt burden. The City's excellent bond ratings communicates to businesses and individuals that Bloomington is a healthy community. It signals current and potential investors that our financial future is strong and ensures Bloomington's interest costs will remain as low as possible.

"This is a significant achievement," said Robert Thistle, executive vice president of Springsted, Bloomington's financial advisor. "It enhances the

marketability of the City's bonds in the financial markets."

The achievement of three triple-A bond ratings doesn't happen overnight. The hard work of the current City Council and staff, as well as previous Councils and staff going back several decades, has paid off. The benefit of our strong financial position will be a great savings to everyone.

For more information, call Bloomington's Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler at 952-563-8791.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD  
BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027

Presort Std  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Mpls., MN  
Permit  
#2293

ECRWSS  
POSTAL CUSTOMER



PUBLIC SAFETY COMES FIRST

DEDICATED TO SERVICE  
CRIME PREVENTION SPECIALIST HONORED

BLOOMINGTON POLICE CRIME PREVENTION Specialist Niki Pierson was honored with the 2004 Rosie Griep Legacy Award, the highest honor given to a crime prevention professional in the State of Minnesota. The award recognizes those who demonstrate a lifetime achievement of promoting crime prevention programs.

Pierson’s career in crime prevention spans over 15 years, first as president of

the Bloomington Crime Prevention Association and then with the Bloomington Police Department (BPD). Her accomplishments include expanding the Neighborhood Watch program from 32 to 323 participating neighborhoods by 2004. In her 12 years with the BPD, Pierson has also initiated many programs that have helped keep Bloomington a safe community. They include the Annual Block Captains’



Left to right: Minnesota Crime Prevention Association President Joe Cordie, Crime Prevention Specialist Niki Pierson and Bloomington Police Chief John Laux.

Workshop, Neighborhood Alert System, National Night Out (*see page 1*), Predatory Offender Registration and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.

RULES AND REGULATIONS  
MOTORIZED SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS, BIKES AND GO-CARTS

MOTORIZED SCOOTERS MAY BE AT THE TOP of wish lists this holiday season but parents should think twice before they buy. The use of recreational motorized vehicles is limited in Bloomington and in most other cities.

State law already regulates recreational motorized vehicles, including snowmobiles, licensed mopeds, and electric or motorized bicycles, due to public safety concerns. The City Council amended and clarified rules and regulations regarding the use

of recreational motorized vehicles not regulated by state law. The ordinance prohibits the use of motorized scooters and skateboards, go-carts and mini bikes on Bloomington streets, parks and sidewalks. These vehicles can only be used on private property with the owner’s permission or at designated areas approved by the City Council.

Police Commander Paul McCullough said he has received many calls from residents regarding recreational motorized vehicles.

“We’ve heard it loud and clear from Bloomington’s neighborhoods that these vehicles are a nuisance and present a hazard,” McCullough said. “The noise and careless driving of these vehicles are not compatible with the peace, quiet and safety that our community wants.”

Motorized wheelchairs used for mobility by disabled persons are not restricted. For more information, call Lieutenant Paul McCullough at 952-563-8834.

SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY  
OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR CIVIC-MINDED ADULTS AND YOUTH

THE CITY COUNCIL IS SEEKING applicants to serve on the following advisory boards and commissions for terms beginning January 2005. Youth positions are available on the Human Rights Commission and Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission.

For more information or an application, call the specific board or commission, or the City Manager’s office at 952-563-8780. Download an application from the City’s Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Commission application. Applications must be received by Friday, December 17, for consideration at the Council’s organizational meeting in January.

<b>Advisory Board of Health</b>	<b>952-563-8919</b>
Advises the Council on issues related to personal and public health of residents. Positions for both health care providers and consumers are available.	
<b>Board of Appeal and Equalization</b>	<b>952-563-8706</b>
Hears appeals of property values established by City Assessor. Members must have experience as appraiser, Realtor, real estate attorney, property manager or be familiar with real estate valuation in Bloomington.	
<b>Human Rights Commission</b>	<b>952-563-8733 V/TTY 952-563-8740</b>
Advises the Council on human rights matters, mediates discrimination complaints, provides education and advocates for human rights issues.	
<b>Merit Board</b>	<b>952-563-8710</b>
Oversees the administration of the merit system for City employees. Establishes and maintains rules and policies for human resource administration. The board meets as necessary.	
<b>Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission</b>	<b>952-563-8877</b>
Advises the Council on matters of capital development, improvement and maintenance of city parks, as well as recreation and cultural arts programs.	
<b>Planning Commission</b>	<b>952-563-8920</b>
Holds public hearings and makes recommendations to the Council on land use, long-range development strategies, development applications and zoning.	

<b>Traffic and Transportation Advisory Commission</b>	<b>952-563-4913</b>
Considers traffic and transportation for existing and new development, concentrates on preservation and service of the existing system, holds public hearings on neighborhood traffic concerns, considers improvements and conducts study projects.	

GET INVOLVED

THERE ARE MANY VOLUNTEER opportunities available in Bloomington. Find out how you can make a difference in your community. Visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Volunteer, or call Kerry Stone at 952-563-8737.

Volume 12, Number 6

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed directly to our residents and businesses. Direct comments to Communications Administrator Diann Kirby, City of Bloomington, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8818; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL [dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us). If you require Braille, larger print or computer disk, contact Diann Kirby.

Visit our Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us)

BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



**Mayor**  
Gene Winstead  
952-888-1258(h)  
[gwinstead@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:gwinstead@ci.bloomington.mn.us)

**Councilmember At Large**  
Dave Abrams  
952-833-0505(h)  
[dabrams@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:dabrams@ci.bloomington.mn.us)



**Councilmember At Large**  
Amy Grady  
952-884-6502 (h)  
[agrady@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:agrady@ci.bloomington.mn.us)

**Councilmember District I**  
Steve Peterson  
952-884-3262(h)  
[speterson@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:speterson@ci.bloomington.mn.us)



**Councilmember District II**  
Heather Harden  
952-835-5919(h)  
[harden@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:harden@ci.bloomington.mn.us)

**Councilmember District III**  
Steve Elkins  
612-578-2103(c)  
[selkins@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:selkins@ci.bloomington.mn.us)



**Councilmember District IV**  
Vern Wilcox  
952-854-1425(h)  
[vwilcox@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:vwilcox@ci.bloomington.mn.us)

Elected officials are presented by the City of Bloomington for informational purposes only.

**COUNCILMEMBERS**  
[council@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:council@ci.bloomington.mn.us)

**CITY MANAGER**  
Mark Bernhardsen 952-563-8780  
[citymanager@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:citymanager@ci.bloomington.mn.us)

<b>DIRECTORS</b>	
Larry Lee, <i>Community Development</i>	952-563-8947
<a href="mailto:llee@ci.bloomington.mn.us">llee@ci.bloomington.mn.us</a>	
James Truax, <i>Community Services</i>	952-563-8717
<a href="mailto:communityservices@ci.bloomington.mn.us">communityservices@ci.bloomington.mn.us</a>	
Lori Economy-Scholler, <i>Finance</i>	952-563-8791
<a href="mailto:finance@ci.bloomington.mn.us">finance@ci.bloomington.mn.us</a>	
Ulie Seal, <i>Fire</i>	952-881-4062
<a href="mailto:fire@ci.bloomington.mn.us">fire@ci.bloomington.mn.us</a>	
Kent Michaelson, <i>Human Resources</i>	952-563-4898
<a href="mailto:kmichaelson@ci.bloomington.mn.us">kmichaelson@ci.bloomington.mn.us</a>	
David Ornstein, <i>Legal</i>	952-563-8753
<a href="mailto:legal@ci.bloomington.mn.us">legal@ci.bloomington.mn.us</a>	
John Laux, <i>Police</i>	952-563-8701
<a href="mailto:police@ci.bloomington.mn.us">police@ci.bloomington.mn.us</a>	
Charles Honchell, <i>Public Works</i>	952-563-8731
<a href="mailto:publicworks@ci.bloomington.mn.us">publicworks@ci.bloomington.mn.us</a>	

The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or status with regard to public assistance in employment or the provision of services. The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as required by Section 35.107 of the U.S. Department of Justice Regulations, and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as mandated by Section 8.53 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regulations. For information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; phone: 952-563-8700; TTY: 952-563-8740.

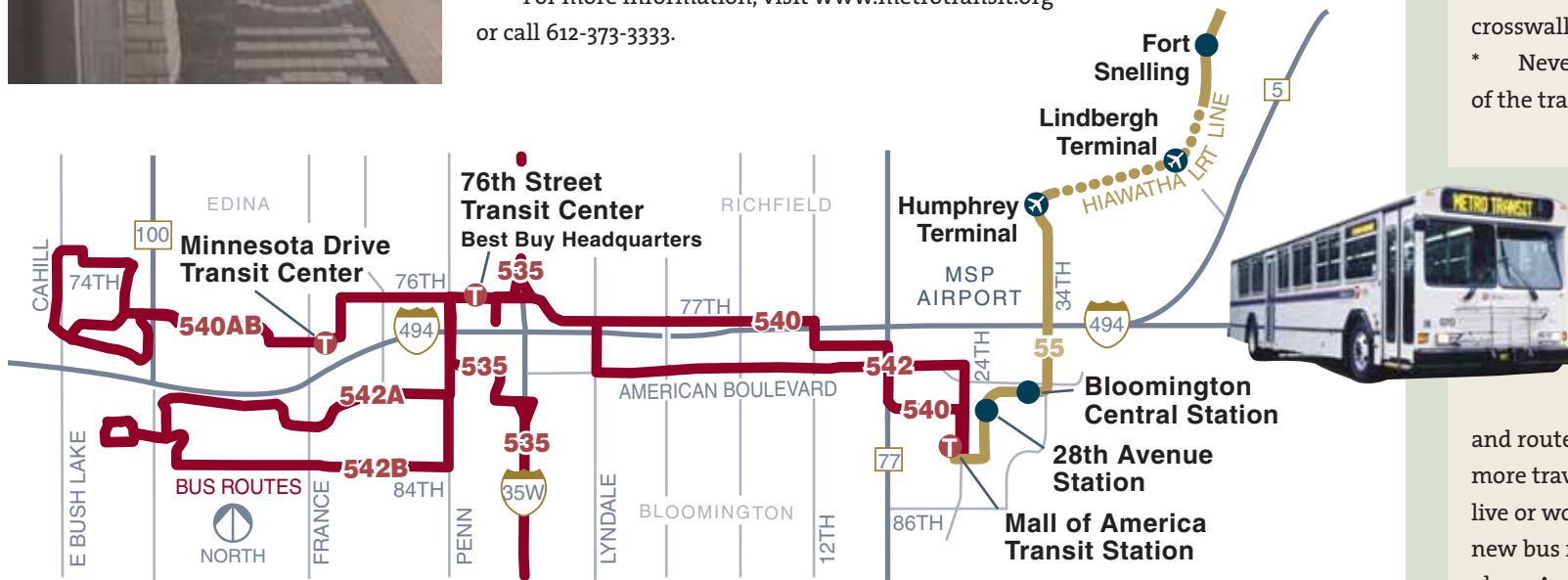


## LRT ROLLS INTO BLOOMINGTON NEW ALTERNATIVES FOR WORKERS AND RESIDENTS

AFTER NEARLY TWO YEARS, CONSTRUCTION ON THE HIAWATHA LIGHT RAIL HAS reached the end of the line. Phase II was completed on December 4 when the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and the line's last stop, the Mall of America, came on board.

The expansion covers four miles and five stations including three light rail stops in Bloomington: Bloomington Central Station, the focal point of McGough's 43-acre, \$700 million mixed-use development; 28th Avenue Station, the site of a 600 vehicle park-and-ride facility; and the Mall of America. *See map.*

For more information, visit [www.metrotransit.org](http://www.metrotransit.org) or call 612-373-3333.



## TRAINS IN OPERATION MAKE SAFETY YOUR PRIORITY

The following tips will help you live safely with light rail.

### MOTORISTS

- Obey traffic signals.
- Never try to beat the gate arms at any light-rail crossing.
- Stop behind the white safety lines at gated crossings.

### PEDESTRIANS

- Cross tracks only at marked crosswalks and obey walk signs.
- \* Never trespass on other sections of the tracks.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Along with the arrival of light rail, expanded bus service and route changes are providing more travel options for those who live or work in Bloomington. Two new bus routes run east and west along American Boulevard from the Mall of America to Normandale Lake Office Park, 8400 Normandale Lake Boulevard. Buses stop at major employer sites along the route.

## GET TO KNOW THE TRAINS LIGHT RAIL IS...

**QUIET.** Unlike a freight train, you might not hear a light-rail train approaching. Listen for horns and warning bells. Look both ways before crossing the tracks. White headlights show a train coming toward you. Red taillights mean a train is moving away from you.



**FAST.** Trains travel up to 35 mph in Bloomington, often only a few minutes apart. It takes the length of two football fields for a train to stop.

Trains travel in both directions, on side-by-side tracks, so one train can block your view of another.

**NEW.** Many are curious about the new trains, but tracks are not a place to explore. Do not trespass on tracks because powerful switches can move at any time. Stay away from high-voltage overhead wires.

## MITIGATING AIRPORT NOISE A QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUE

IT IS AN ECONOMIC BENEFIT AND CONVENIENCE TO BLOOMINGTON RESIDENTS TO HAVE the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport as a neighbor. But along with the benefits of retaining the airport at its current location come other impacts including airport noise.

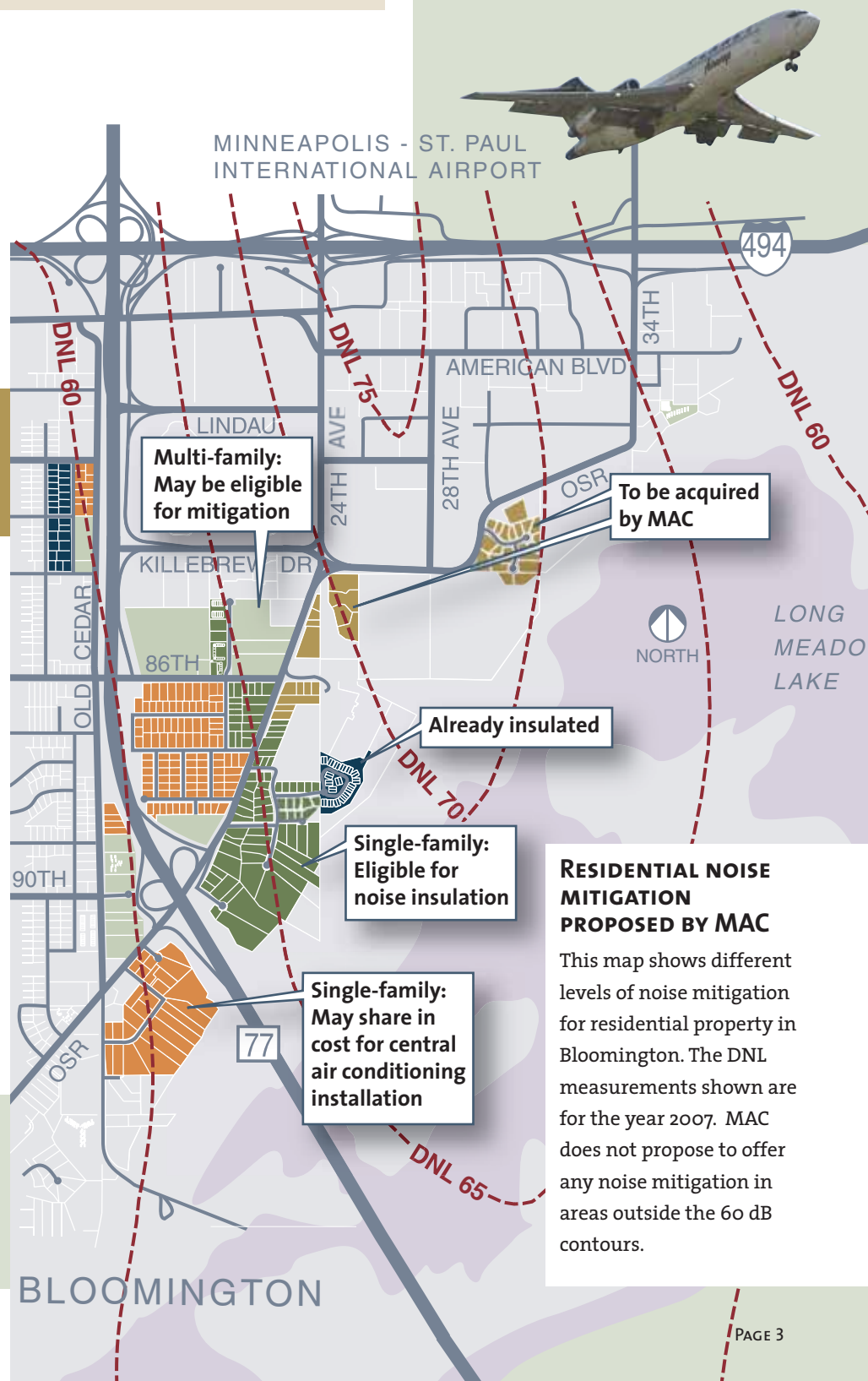
As part of the airport's expansion, a new runway is scheduled to open in fall 2005. When the runway is operational, increased airport noise will impact some properties in Bloomington. The City Council and the City of Bloomington are advocating for full insulation of homes most affected by airport noise.

In November, the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) approved a proposal to significantly reduce its commitment to noise abatement measures. MAC will submit its noise insulation update to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The document describes MAC's intent for providing noise mitigation measures in Bloomington. In communications with the FAA, the City of Bloomington strongly objected to MAC's proposal to not fully insulate homes in the DNL 60 to 64 dB contours. *See orange-colored area of the map.*

For more information, call Carolyn Lane at 952-563-8948.

### MEASURING NOISE

DNL represents the average noise level over a 24-hour period with a 10 decibel (dB) penalty added to noise events occurring between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. This average does not represent the sound level heard at the time an aircraft is flying overhead.



## RESIDENTIAL NOISE MITIGATION PROPOSED BY MAC

This map shows different levels of noise mitigation for residential property in Bloomington. The DNL measurements shown are for the year 2007. MAC does not propose to offer any noise mitigation in areas outside the 60 dB contours.



CONTACT PARKS AND RECREATION AT 952-563-8877 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE EVENTS.



### HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE A HISTORIC GATHERING

Where: Gideon H. Pond House, Pond-Dakota Mission Park, 401 E. 104th St.  
When: Sunday, December 19.  
Time: 1 - 4 p.m.  
Cost: Free.

GET IN A FESTIVE MOOD WITH A touch of Bloomington's history. Enjoy a tour of this 19th century house, listen to holiday organ music and sip refreshments. For more information, call Parks and Recreation.



A MONTH-LONG CELEBRATION OF Bloomington's youth, this series of events combines community and family fun with educational programs and ceremonies to honor organizations who help kids and kids who help others. Parks and Recreation, Bloomington Public Schools and many community groups call upon residents to join in the festivities.

#### KICK-OFF

When: Wednesday, February 2 6:30 p.m.  
Where: Knott's Camp Snoopy, Mall of America.

The **Recognition Ceremony** honors those who have done something special to benefit our community – youth, youth groups, and volunteer organizations that serve youth.

#### COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

When: Saturday, February 19 12:30 - 3 p.m.  
Where: Northwestern Health Sciences University, 84th and Penn Ave.  
The event includes entertainment, exhibits, multi-cultural event, preschool play area and much more!

Please sponsor activities that will foster the mission of Bloomington Loves Its Kids. To participate, call Diane Moe at 952-563-8877.

## WINTER ACTIVITIES HEAT UP THE COLD AIR



### YOUTH SPORTS

#### HOCKEY

BLOOMINGTON AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION (BAHA) BRINGS ICE HOCKEY instruction and game competition to boys and girls, ages 5 - 18. This past spring, BAHA merged its recreational level hockey with BAA to allow youth to participate in hockey at the level they desire. Bloomington skaters may try out for the traveling teams sponsored by one of the Kennedy or Jefferson booster clubs or simply sign up to play on a rec-level team. Tournaments held at the Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street, include:

- Regional Holiday Tournament, December 26 - 31.
- Bloomington Squirt Invitational, January 19 - 23.

For more information, call Ed or Darla Beek at 952-831-0546 or visit [www.bloomingtonhockey.com](http://www.bloomingtonhockey.com).

#### BLOOMINGTON ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (BAA)

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: [WWW.BAAONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.BAAONLINE.ORG) OR CALL THE BAA INFORMATION Hotline: 952-888-0807 and press the mailbox number.

Month	Mailbox	Activity	Grades
January	#21	Girls Volleyball	4 - 12
March	#11	Boys and Girls Baseball:	
	#11	Mini-Mite	Age 4 - 5 (Age 4 by 9/1/04)
	#11	In-House	K - 8
	#20	Majors	9 - 12
	#20	Girls Softball	1 - 8
	#20	Co-Rec Softball	9 - 12

### ADULT SPORTS

#### TENNIS DRILLS

INSTRUCTED BY A CERTIFIED TEACHING PROFESSIONAL, DRILLS ARE PRACTICE SESSIONS to improve stroke production. Facilities include locker rooms, showers, sauna, whirlpool, steam room, swimming pool, indoor track and exercise room.

When: Thursdays, January 6 - February 10 **or** Thursdays, February 17 - March 24.  
Times: Beginner 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Intermediate 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Where: 98th St. Northwest Athletic Club.  
Cost: \$55 for six one-hour lessons.  
Limit: Six per class; minimum of four.  
Register: Call Parks and Recreation.

#### DAYTIME VOLLEYBALL

ALL GAMES ARE PLAYED AT THE BLOOMINGTON ARMORY, 3300 WEST 98TH STREET. Feel free to show up alone; teams are formed on the spot each week.

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning January 4.  
Time: 9:30 - 11 a.m.  
Cost: \$1.25 each session.

### GALAXY YOUTH CENTERS

GALAXY YOUTH CENTERS ARE LOCATED IN THREE MIDDLE SCHOOLS: OAK GROVE, 1300 West 106th Street; Olson, 4551 West 102nd Street; and Valley View, 8900 Portland Avenue. The centers provide a safe, nurturing environment for youth, grades 6 to 8. Activities include music, foosball, Ping-Pong, billiards, video games, arts and crafts, service projects and sports. Hours are Monday - Friday, from 2:30 - 6 p.m. For more information, call 952-681-6107.



### AR&LE

THE ADAPTIVE RECREATION & LEARNING EXCHANGE (AR&LE) provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities to participate in recreational, social and educational programs. These opportunities are for people with varied ability levels in specially designed programs that meet their needs. For a quarterly brochure of activities, call Parks and Recreation.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
Our volunteers have a great time – you could, too!  
Just a few hours can make a world of difference. Call Janet at 952-681-6121.



#### ONE COOL EVENT

When: Tuesday - Sunday, January 18 - 23.  
Where: Various locations.  
PARKS AND RECREATION AND THREE Rivers Park District are planning winter festival activities that include:

- Snowshoeing.
- Cross-country skiing.
- Hockey.
- Skating.
- Ice fishing.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation or visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Winter Fete.

## LOOK AHEAD

### PLAN YOUR EVENT PICNIC SHELTERS AVAILABLE FOR RENT



PICNIC SHELTERS WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE to rent for next year's picnics, receptions, reunions or meetings. Registration begins January 3 for use April through mid-October. Shelters have electricity, grills, restrooms and drinking fountains. In addition, City parks offer playground equipment, volleyball and horseshoe courts, walking trails and softball fields. Reduced rates are available for non-profit Bloomington youth groups.

#### PROPOSED\* RENTAL RATES

MOIR PARK	
104th St. at Morgan Ave.	
Shelter 1:	Accommodates 200+. \$180 + tax = \$191.70.
Shelter 2:	Accommodates 50. \$123 + tax = \$131.

WEST BUSH LAKE PARK	
94th St. at West Bush Lake Rd.	
Shelter 1:	Accommodates 240. \$180 + tax = \$191.70.
Shelter 2:	Accommodates 150. \$123 + tax = \$131.

EAST BUSH LAKE PARK	
9140 East Bush Lake Rd.	
Shelter 3:	Accommodates 200. \$238 + tax = \$253.47.

SMITH PARK	
8155 Park Ave. S.	
Shelter:	Accommodates 30. \$77 + tax = \$82.01
*Subject to City Council approval December 2004.	



CENTER FOR THE ARTS

LOCATED IN THE BLOOMINGTON CIVIC PLAZA AT THE CORNER OF WEST 98TH STREET AND Old Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing eight arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8881. For events, call 952-563-8567.

EXHIBITIONS

BLOOMINGTON ART CENTER

952-563-4777

ATRIUM GALLERY, SECOND FLOOR

Running through **December 31**, **The Wood and I** features artist Heidi Henderson.

**Geography of Longing** with artist Susan Armington runs **January 6 - March 4**. The opening reception will be Friday, January 7, from 7 - 9 p.m.

GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Friday	8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	1 p.m. - 10 p.m.

INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

Running through **January 7**, **Holiday Shores** features artists Carl Corey and Peter Zylstra.

From **January 14 - February 18**, **Contradictions: Hidden Truths** features artists Michael Bernstein, Jim Davis, Wayne Roosa and Kenneth Steinbach. The opening reception will be Friday, January 14, from 6 - 8 p.m.

BLACK BOX THEATER

A DICKENS’ CHRISTMAS CAROL

A Radio Theater Live! presentation of Charles Dickens’ classic holiday tale will be presented at **7:30 p.m., Thursday - Saturday, December 9 - 11, and December 16 - 18 and Sunday, December 19\***, at **2 p.m.** \*ASL interpreted. Cost is \$7.



North Star Opera’s cabaret revue, 23 Brel songs and ballads presented without dialogue, will be held **Thursday - Saturday, February 10 - 12, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, February 13, at 2 p.m.**

Tickets range from \$18 to \$32. Purchase tickets at [www.ticketworks.com](http://www.ticketworks.com) or call 651-209-6689.

JACQUES BREL IS ALIVE AND WELL AND LIVING IN PARIS

SCHNEIDER THEATER



CONTINENTAL BALLET

Continental Ballet Company will perform The Nutcracker ballet on **Friday, December 10 and 17, and Saturday, December 11, at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday - Sunday, December 11 - 12, at 3 p.m.** Tickets are \$17 adults; \$14 seniors/ students; \$8 for children under age 13. For reservations, call 952-563-8562.

THURSDAY MUSICAL

The 2004-05 Thursday Morning Artist Series’ classical music concerts are performed on **Thursdays, December 16, January 13 and 27, and February 10 and 17, at 10:30 a.m.** Tickets are \$10 each. Season ticket membership for 14 concerts is \$55; \$45 seniors, age 65 and older. For more information, call 612-333-0313 or visit [www.thursdaymusical.com](http://www.thursdaymusical.com).



BLOOMINGTON CHORALE

Bloomington Chorale and special guests present **Angelica Cantanti Children’s Voices on Sunday, December 19, at 7:30 p.m.** Tickets are \$10 adults; \$7 seniors/students; free for children under 10. For information, call 952-563-8582.

HOLIDAY MUSIC SHOW

The senior program’s Holiday Music Show will be held on Tuesday, December 21. *See page 7.*

BLOOMINGTON CIVIC THEATRE A CHORUS LINE

Drop in on a Broadway audition and see the heart and soul of the dancers “going” for the role of a lifetime. Performances are **Thursdays - Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., January 27 - February 20**. For tickets, visit [www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org](http://www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org). or call 952-563-8575.

2004-2005 OUTDOOR SKATING RINKS

PARKS AND RECREATION WILL OPERATE 15 OUTDOOR ICE SKATING SITES THIS WINTER. Facilities include a lighted general skating rink, a hockey rink and a heated park shelter for changing skates and warming up. Each site is supervised by a Parks and Recreation employee during public skating hours. Weather permitting, park shelters will open Wednesday, December 22, 2004, and close Sunday, February 13, 2005.



LOCATIONS AND FEATURES

PARK	ADDRESS	PHONE	RINK			SHELTER	
			General	Hockey	Floodlights	Temporary▲	Permanent
Brookside	10000 Xerxes Ave. S.	952-835-6752	●	●	●		●
Bryant	1001 W. 85th St.	952-884-5457	●	●	●		●
Brye	10500 Xavier Ave. S.	952-888-1834	●	●	●		●
Haeg	8301 Penn Ave. S.		●	●	●	●	
Kelly	185 E. 102nd St.	952-881-9691	●	●	●		●
Oak Grove	1301 W. 104th St.		●	●	●	●	
Poplar Bridge	4600 W. 85th St.	952-831-1584	●	●	●		●
Running	9501 12th Ave. S.	952-881-9641	●	2	●		●
Southglen	10701 Rich Road		●	●	●		
Southwood	4800 Terracewood Dr.		●	●	●	●	
Sunrise	9401 Blmgtn. Ferry Rd.	952-829-1685	●	●	●		●
Westwood	3490 W. 109th St.	952-884-5519	●	2	●		●

▲ Temporary shelters are heated, with unheated “satellite” restrooms and no running water.

Logan, Ridgeview and Tarnhill have general skating rinks for day use only.

RINK SHELTER HOURS

DAY OF WEEK	REGULAR	HOLIDAY
	January 3 - February 13, 2005	December 22, 2004 - January 2, 2005 January 17, 2005
Parks: Running, Westwood		
M - F	4 - 9 p.m.	1 - 9 p.m.
Sa	11 a.m - 9 p.m.	11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Su	1 - 9 p.m.	1 - 9 p.m.
Parks: Brookside, Bryant, Brye, Haeg, Kelly, Oak Grove, Poplar Bridge, Southglen, Southwood, Sunrise		
M - F	4 - 8 p.m.	1 - 8 p.m.
Sa	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Su	1 - 5 p.m.	1 - 5 p.m.
* December 24, 2004	All park shelters closed.	
* December 25, 2004	All park shelters closed.	
* December 31, 2004	All shelters open, 1 - 5 p.m.	
* January 1, 2005	Shelters open, 1 - 5 p.m., at Poplar Bridge, Running, Sunrise and Westwood.	
* January 17, 2005	All shelters open, holiday hours.	



Earth Action Heroes protect the planet. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...



## EARTH ACTION HEROES THE TORO TROOPERS

WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU COMBINE TORO'S LANDSCAPE maintenance equipment and volunteers willing to use it? The answer, after the dust settles, is a community beautification project.

To celebrate Intergeneration Week in September, 45 Toro Company volunteers and 260 Olson Middle School students pulled on their gloves, donned their red t-shirts and gathered up their tools to give something back to the community. The group weeded, raked and mulched the grounds at the Masonic Home and Creekside Community Center, and collected seeds for the wildflower restoration program at Richardson Nature Center.

Through their Giving Program, Bloomington-based Toro Company donates products, money and volunteer time to organizations that preserve the outdoor environment and to other programs that support the community. Toro also allows its employees to take paid time off to volunteer for nonprofit organizations and community service projects.

Olson Middle School and Toro are community improvement partners. Through the School District's Prepare Bloomington partnership program, they meet together to plan activities that will meet their common goals. The community beautification event was their third service project together. Toro's Volunteer Coordinator Kathy Manson said the partnership is great for Toro and for the kids. She said the senior project is especially gratifying.

"The project allows kids to interact with the older generation," Manson said. "The seniors appreciate having children around for the social aspect and they get to see the good in youth today."

Overall, the community service project provided the youth with a chance to practice environmental stewardship and gave them a sense of accomplishment.

"It felt good doing the work because we were helping the community," said Brian, an Olson sixth grader. "Citizens of Bloomington would be surprised to see that we could do such a good job."

A partnership that supports the environment and that is rewarding for all participants makes it a clean sweep not only for the Toro Troopers but also for Bloomington.

Do you know an Earth Action Hero? Do they conserve and protect our natural resources in unique or interesting ways? If so, we would like to hear from you. Call Jean Buckley at 952-563-8751.



## MAKE THE DIFFERENCE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO ENSURE A BRIGHT TOMORROW

### WETLAND VEGETATION TREATMENT POLICY OFFERS INCENTIVE FOR PROPERTY OWNERS

BLOOMINGTON'S LAKES AND PONDS ARE A SOURCE OF pride and beauty for the entire community. The City Council adopted a new policy for chemical treatments of algae and aquatic vegetation in ponds that reflects recommendations from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The policy establishes incentives for property owners who implement landscape and yard care practices that minimize pollution of nearby wetlands.

Residents who own property abutting a pond are encouraged to help limit the growth of aquatic vegetation by establishing and maintaining an unmowed vegetative buffer zone around the edge of the wetland and keeping grass clippings and leaves away from the water body, street or storm drain. If more than half of the property owners adjacent to a wetland commit to on-site mitigation, the City will share the costs of aquatic vegetation treatment. When all of the property owners commit to on-site mitigation, the City will pay the total cost of treatment.

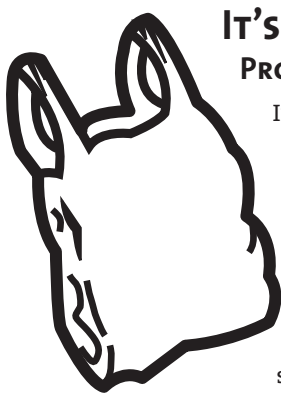
The City intends to protect recreational use of Bloomington's lakes and ponds without seriously interfering with the natural environment. Therefore, the City adopts the DNR's recommendations to limit chemical treatments of wetlands to the smallest amount that will be effective. Typically, that is one or two chemical applications per summer.

For more information, call Environmental Health at 952-563-8952. To view the entire policy, visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Wetland policy.



### LAKESCAPING SEMINAR

Learn how you can help improve water quality and build a beautiful buffer zone on your property. An educational meeting will be held on Saturday, March 5, at 1 p.m., at the Penn Lake Library, 8800 Penn Avenue South. Representatives from the Department of Natural Resources and the City of Bloomington will be on hand to provide information and answer questions. For more information, call Jean Buckley at 952-563-8751.



### IT'S IN THE BAG PROGRAM UPDATE

IN OCTOBER 2003, GROCERY STORES AND THE SOUTH HENNEPIN RECYCLING and Problem Waste Drop-off Center began accepting plastic bags for recycling. Since then, work crews have collected, sorted and baled more than 330,000 pounds of plastic bags and film – the equivalent of 14 million plastic bags that would have ended up in a landfill or incinerator. The "It's in the Bag" program has also created 34 jobs and approximately 11,250 work hours with more than 6,000 pickups at 90 stores in the metropolitan area.

Clean, dry plastic shopping bags are accepted for recycling at Cub, Lund's, Byerly's and Kowalski's grocery stores, and Hennepin County's drop-off facilities. For more information visit [www.itsinthebagmn.org](http://www.itsinthebagmn.org).

### SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL TIPS LIMIT SALT AND OTHER CHEMICAL USE THIS WINTER

SPRINKLING SALT AND OTHER CHEMICAL DEICERS ON SLIPPERY sidewalks may help melt snow and ice, but these products can be harmful to nearby water bodies, soil, plants and even concrete surfaces. To minimize your use of salt and other chemical deicers this winter:

- Keep shoveling. Only use deicers to remove the last layer of ice.
- Mix salt with some sand or cat litter to add traction to slippery surfaces.
- Use smaller quantities. Salt is most effective if applied in a thin, even layer.

Source: University of Minnesota Extension Service.



### SPRING 2005 CURBSIDE CLEANUP

#### COLLECTION DATES

Location	Regular trash day is:	2005 Curbside pickup is Saturday:
West of Normandale	Friday	April 16
France to Normandale	Thursday	April 23
Penn to France	Wednesday	April 30
Portland to Penn	Tuesday	May 7
East of Portland	Monday	May 21



## TAKE A BOW – OR TWO BLOOMINGTON SCHOOLS’ PAIR WIN HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

DINNA WADE-ARDLEY, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL Equity for Bloomington Schools and the Thomas Jefferson High School Diversity Committee were each honored with the 2004 Omar Bonderud Award at the City Council’s first meeting in December.

The Omar Bonderud Award recognizes individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to ensuring the rights of people in the community. Omar Bonderud was the first chair of the Bloomington Human Rights Commission, formed in 1968.

For more information, call 952-563-8733, TTY 952-563-8740, or visit the [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Bonderud.

Since she began as a teacher in the Bloomington School District in 1992, **Dinna Wade-Ardley** has taught co-workers about respect, tolerance, cultural understanding and diversity. Her emphasis on family involvement and collaborative efforts with community agencies plus her tireless efforts to lead Bloomington schools to embrace and appreciate our differences made her an ideal candidate for the award.



Students, faculty and representatives from community organizations on the **Jefferson High School Diversity Committee** are committed to making the school an environment in which all students feel respected and valued. The committee has facilitated many multicultural activities, including an annual Diversity Day event, that have helped the student body and faculty become more aware of the value of diversity.

## COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS BLOOMINGTON TAKES HOME THE GOLD

THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON COLLECTED EIGHT AWARDS FOR ITS COMMUNICATIONS efforts from local and national organizations this year. Four of the awards paid tribute to the grand opening events for Bloomington Civic Plaza. The honors included:

**City-County Communications and Marketing Association**  
Silver Circle Award: Bloomington Civic Plaza Debut

**League of Minnesota Cities**  
City Achievement Communications Award: *Briefing* and *Insider* makeover

**National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors**  
Third Place: “Bloomington Today: Year in Review 2003” cable program

**Minnesota Association of Government Communicators**  
Award of Excellence: Bloomington Civic Plaza Debut  
Award of Merit: Internal periodicals  
Award of Merit: “Only on Cable” public service announcement

**Association for Women in Communications – Twin Cities Chapter**  
Award of Merit: Bloomington Civic Plaza Debut

**International Association of Business Communicators - District 4**  
Award of Merit: Bloomington Civic Plaza Debut

For more information, contact Diann Kirby, Communications Administrator, at 952-563-8818.



**Bloomington Civic Plaza  
Grand Opening**

## PROGRAMS FOR YOU

CREEKSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER IS located at 9801 Penn Avenue South. For more information on programs, activities and services, call the Human Services Information Line at 952-563-4957 V/TTY or visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Creekside.

### DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASSES

AARP’s defensive driving classes are offered on a monthly basis at Creekside. Cost is \$10. To register, call the Information Line.

### GET TO KNOW US

Start the New Year off with a “Get Acquainted with Creekside” gathering and receive the latest information about the many programs, activities and opportunities for seniors. Upcoming meetings will be held **Wednesday, January 5 and February 2, from 10 - 11 a.m.**

### NEED A SPACE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT?

Why not hold your next special event at Creekside? Rooms are available for rent at reasonable rates. The facility features a kitchen, auditorium, classrooms, audio-visual equipment and a catering menu.

### SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Human Services provides assistance for families in need. For more information, call Denise Royer, Alissa Smith or Jackie Doncavage at Creekside.

#### Working through issues

Support teams are made up of individuals who can help you identify your goals. If you are a Bloomington family with children under 18 years of age and are working with multiple complex issues including housing, school or employment, you are eligible for assistance through the support team process.

#### Furniture referrals

Lower income families who are in need of basic furniture may be eligible to receive these items through the nonprofit organization Bridging, Inc. Those with limited furniture due to a fire or domestic abuse situation may also be eligible.

## CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AT CREEKSIDE

The Bloomington senior program’s **Holiday Music Show** will be held on **Tuesday, December 21, at 1:15 p.m.**, in the **Schneider Theater** at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, and features performances by the Bloomingtons, Crickets and Renegades. Tickets are \$3.



Find that special, one-of-a-kind gift at the **Creekside Boutique**. Merchandise includes hand-crocheted and knitted items, quilts and afghans, dolls, doll clothes and furniture, and holiday decorations and ornaments. Holiday hours are **Monday-Friday, from 10 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.**, **Tuesdays, from 6 - 8 p.m.**, and **Saturdays, from 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.**



Invite your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors to the annual **Holiday Tea and Storytime** on **Wednesday, December 22, at 9:15 a.m.**, at **Creekside**. This free program is sponsored by Human Services and Friends of the Oxboro Library.

Visit the **Creekside Buyer’s Club** for all of your holiday baking needs. The Buyer’s Club carries nuts, dried fruits, coconut, granola, oatmeal, bran, wild rice, honey, pure maple syrup and more. Hours are **Thursdays, from 9 - 11:15 a.m. and 12:45 - 1:30 p.m.**





LOOK INTO A HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

THE BLOOMINGTON HOUSING AND Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is now accepting applications for its Home Improvement Deferred Loan Program.

Loans of up to \$30,000 are available to Bloomington homeowners. There are no monthly payments. Repayment occurs when the home is sold, transferred or conveyed. Interest is charged at a simple 5 percent per year for the first 10 years based on the original loan amount.

A Lead Risk Assessment is required for all homes built before 1978.

Loans are offered to help maintain the condition of housing and neighborhoods in the city. Applications are ranked and processed according to need. Depending on your ranking, it may take up to 10 months before your application is processed.

**Eligible repairs** include: replacement of roofs, electrical and plumbing systems; gutters, windows, doors, insulation, siding, soffits and fascia; exterior painting; and foundation, sidewalk or step repairs.

**Ineligible repairs** include: decorating; additions; finishing basements; remodeling; and garage construction. Homeowner labor will no longer be permitted, due to federal lead paint regulations.

To apply for a Home Improvement Deferred Loan, you must have sufficient equity in your home to cover the amount of the loan.

INCOME GUIDELINES

Persons in household*	Maximum gross income**
1	\$40,250
2	\$46,000
3	\$51,750
4	\$57,500
5	\$62,100
6	\$66,700
7	\$71,300
8 or more	\$75,900

\* Includes all residents of household, related and unrelated, including renters.

\*\* Subject to change.

Deadline

Loan applications will be accepted at the HRA office in Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, until Friday, March 4. For more information or to receive an application, call 952-563-8941.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY



Minnesota Historical Society

LYNDALE AVENUE DRAWBRIDGE - 1943

THE LYNDALE AVENUE DRAWBRIDGE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN BLOOMINGTON’S development. Completed in 1920 at a cost of nearly one million dollars, the bridge was the brainchild of Dr. R.H. Benham. Benham was a land speculator responsible for promoting the extension of Lyndale Avenue – the first north-south highway from Minneapolis – south across the Minnesota River. In 1942, a shipbuilding yard was constructed on the banks of the Minnesota River to assemble ocean-going tankers. The hulls were floated down the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers and then on to New Orleans. The ship pictured here passed through the drawbridge on November 5, 1943. When I-35W was extended over the Minnesota River in 1960, the drawbridge was closed and demolished later that year.

HITTING THE ROAD?

WINTER IN MINNESOTA EXPECT SNOW


WHEN THE WEATHER TAKES A TURN for the worse, the City’s equipment operators hit the roads to plow Bloomington’s 341 miles of streets and 512 cul-de-sacs.

For more information, call Street Maintenance at 952-563-8760.

SAFETY TIPS

When snowplows are out, follow these important safety tips:

- While driving, keep a safe distance from snowplows.
- Don’t pass a snowplow while it’s plowing snow.
- Keep children away from the end of driveways when a snowplow passes.



**SNOW EMERGENCY**

A Snow Emergency is automatically in effect when three or more inches of snow have accumulated. No parking is allowed on any street for the next 48 hours or until the street has been plowed curb-to-curb.

**SNOW EMERGENCY HOT LINE**  
**952-563-8768**

FLAG ETIQUETTE RULES FOR DISPLAYING THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE

PROPERLY SHOWCASE THE AMERICAN flag at your home. The flag should not be displayed if it is torn or tattered or during inclement weather, unless an all-weather flag is used.

- Flags should be displayed:
- From sunrise to sunset or for 24 hours if properly illuminated.
  - Vertically, if hung over a street,



with the stars to the north on an east and west street, or stars to the east on a north and south street.

- When not flown from a staff, the flag should be displayed flat, either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the stars to the observer's left.
- Stars at the peak of the staff when hung horizontally or at an angle from a window sill, balcony, or front of a building, unless the flag is at half-staff.
- For proper disposal of the American flag, contact your local Veterans of Foreign Wars or American Legion post, or other veterans’ organizations.

GO WITH THE FLOW PROTECT WATER METERS FROM FREEZING

THE UTILITIES DIVISION REMINDS homeowners to make sure their water meters are protected throughout the winter. During sub-zero temperatures, water meters housed in well pits or enclosed closets may freeze and break. To avoid a potential problem, allow heat to circulate around the meter by leaving the access unobstructed and the door to the meter closet open. For more information, call 952-563-8777.

TAKING A TRIP?



PASSPORT SERVICE AVAILABLE AT MOTOR VEHICLE

ARE THERE TRAVEL PLANS IN YOUR future? Will you need a passport? The Motor Vehicle Office, located at 9930 Logan Avenue South, is a designated Passport Acceptance Agent. Since last February, 700 applications have been processed. Passport photos are also available. Hours are Monday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., and Tuesday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 952-563-8719, or visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Passport.

DINING OUT?

SMOKE-FREE DINING BLOOMINGTON RESTAURANTS JOIN THE LIST

ON SEPTEMBER 1, THE FOLLOWING restaurants joined the 97 restaurants in Bloomington that were already smoke-free:

- Albert’s Family Restaurant, Mall of America.
- Denny’s Restaurant, 1200 98th St.
- Denny’s Restaurant, 4209 W. 80th St.
- Don Ho’s, 7700 W. Old Shakopee Rd.
- Perkins, 8324 Lyndale Ave. S.
- IHOP, 2231 Killebrew Dr.
- Oriental Jade, 8907 Penn Ave. S.

Patrons will be able to enjoy a smoke-free environment in all of Bloomington’s public establishments after March 31, 2005, when the next phase of the smoking ban goes into effect, and includes businesses issued on-sale alcoholic beverage and charitable gambling licenses. For a complete list of smoke-free restaurants in Bloomington, visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Restaurant Smoke or call 952-563-8995.